

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of installing a gasket in a socket end of a thermoplastic pipe which is used to form a pipe coupling, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a mandrel with an inner end and an outer end and having a generally cylindrical outer working surface;

installing a gasket at a first circumferential position on the outer working surface, the gasket being formed of styrene butadiene rubber and having the entire outer working surface thereof coated with an external synthetic polymeric coating, the synthetic polymeric coating comprising a high performance polyurethane anti-corrosion and anti-friction coating, the coating being applied to the exterior of the gasket and then dried to form a permanent, external coating for the gasket which is able to withstand temperature, chemical attack and abrasion;

providing a retention member at a second circumferential location on the mandrel nearer the inner end of the mandrel, the retention member abutting the gasket in a normally extended position but being retractable to a retracted position in a subsequent manufacturing step;

heating a socket end of the thermoplastic pipe;

forcing the heated socket end of the thermoplastic pipe over the working surface of the mandrel and over the gasket with the retention member being in the extended position, whereby the heated socket end of the thermoplastic pipe flows over the gasket to form a retention groove for retaining the gasket and again contacts the working surface of the mandrel;

cooling the heated socket end of the thermoplastic pipe;

retracting the cooled socket end of the thermoplastic pipe and the retained gasket from the working surface of the mandrel; and

wherein the gasket coating is effective to provide oil resistance which is at least that of nitrile rubber at a fraction of the cost of a nitrile rubber gasket, thereby allowing a less expensive material to be used in a product with characteristics equivalent to a more expensive material.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the coating when cured has the following published physical properties:

Tensile strength ASTM D 412	5000psi
Method A, Die C	

Percent Elongation	
ASTM D 412 Method A, Die C	500 percent

Taber Abraser	
CS17 1000 g/1000 cycles	No loss

Durometer Shore A	110
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Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the external coating is sprayed on.

Claims 4-6 (canceled).